

**Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee**  
**September 29, 2011 Field Trip**  
**Prineville, Oregon**

Attending: Garth Fuller, Phil Chang, Glen Ardt, Chuck McGarth, Steve Fitzgerald, Mollie Chaudet, Michael Keown, John Allen, Susan Skakel, Steve Robertson, Deb Mafera, Dennis Oliphant, Rob Tanner, Bonnie Lamb, Erin Barnholt, Alison Dean, Kate Klein, Chris Gamen

**Field Site #1: Ochoco Stream Restoration Project**

1938 saw mill began. 2004 saw mill dismantled. 76 acre site; Ochoco Creek bisects site – used as a log pond/slash board dam/pond also used for fire suppression.

Work with ODFW to restore creek after mill was dismantled. Goals were flood mitigation; erosion control; and creation of fish habitat. Opportunity for community environmental education in a rural setting.

Worked with Boy Scouts to control invasive plants; worked with Crook County High School students.

City of Prineville will use old railroad line for urban trail; trail would connect with other city trails.

Agreement with watershed council to maintain restoration work if property is sold; transition to Parks and Recreation.

Mill area also provides a future commercial zone that would be enhanced by creek restoration.

Funding for project came from Crooked River Watershed Council; Ochoco Lumber; USFS; OWEB; DEQ, city and county. Total cost was \$260,000 plus in-kind work.

Historic photos used to reconstruct creek meanders. Cottonwoods were at site historically + alder. Still a need for invasive plant control – Reed Canary grass is a problem. Some impacts from deer.

Originally the creek was poor fish habitat. The goal was to restore habitat complexity + channel stability. A stable channel design was created – involved the movement of about 22,000 cubic yards of material over a 3-week period. 10-pieces of equipment/220 dump trucks worth of material. Flood plain capacity: 1998 – 1,800 CFS; 2003 – 22 CFS; 2011. The creek experience pulses and the design of the flood plain can accommodate these pulses over time.

Post Project Monitoring: no major flaws to date. There will be improved conditions as vegetation recovers. Project will continue to provide fish habitat over time. The project has helped cement

community relationships in an urban setting and has been a collaborative success. Up to four tours a year at site.

Design Elements; develop full bank width; establish riparian vegetation; create 4-5 acre floodplain; key in wood to bank for channel complexity.

**Lunch Presentation:** Deb Mafera on the Invasive Plant Program on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest.

## **Field Site #2: Chuck McGrath's Ranch: Management of Cattle and Western Juniper Habitats – Sanford Creek**

After juniper burning cattle allotments (1,500 acre Sanford Creek Allotment) are rested from grazing (2-year requirement on BLM lands), leads to an increase in stream flow Chuck has reduced his AUMs; leads to improved range conditions.

BLM has done juniper cutting in upper reaches of watershed; BLM has had an active program since about 1980's. BLM conducts maintenance burning where juniper was cut before. There is a catchment burning schedule of 10,000 acres (time period?). Also maintain critical winter range for deer.

Burning Techniques: hand light edges of burning units, then use helicopter to torch rest of unit.

BLM Post-fire Monitoring: does monitoring as budget allows to look at fire effects. Look at vegetation recovery = minimize overland flow/erosion.

1-5 year monitoring schedule - BLM started in 2001; some data is available.

1<sup>st</sup> year flush of cheat grass, then native grasses start to recover. Perennial bunch grasses at year 2. Vegetation recovery is influenced by a number of factors: elevation/precipitation/frequency of fire.

Cheat grass responds to repeated burning. Climate change may influence the extent of cheat grass.

Monitoring information is shared through COFMS. Hopefully monitoring information is used in future planning efforts. Good data collection is necessary to support success. Funding is always needed to support monitoring. Grants are usually for 1-3 year period. Need longer grant cycle to be more beneficial. Issues also focus where grant monies go.

Handouts:

Sanford Creek Rx Burn – One-year Monitoring (BLM) – Alison Dean, Fire Ecologist, Prineville BLM

Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Initiative Glen Ardt, Wildlife Biologist, ODFW